



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0071
JUVENILE SERVICES EDUCATION BOARD AND PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT,
POWERS AND DUTIES**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Luedtke

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0071 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition members are concerned about the lack of educational services for juveniles who are in residential facilities because they have been committed, detained, awaiting placement, adjudicated delinquent, or are otherwise under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Services. We have a requirement to ensure that all children are educated in our state and we cannot abdicate that responsibility because these children are in a state facility.

We support this bill because it creates a Juvenile Services Education Board that will create and oversee programs that will provide education for children who are under the care of the Department of Juvenile Services. Those programs will focus on the needs of those children and include vocational and other training that will help them become productive members of our society when they are released.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.